

ABSTRACT

A machine tool installation for laser cutting of sheet metal workpieces includes a workpiece support having a multiplicity of parallel spaced grid elements providing the upper surface thereof, and a machine frame having a generally vertical rear wall and an arm extending therefrom over the workpiece support, and upon which is supported a laser cutting unit with a laser cutting head, said grid elements of said workpiece support extending perpendicularly to said vertical wall of said machine frame. An unloading unit is provided to lift the cut parts from the workpiece support and transport them to a discharge station. In the unit a frame movably supports a pair of opposed fork assemblies which move between open and closed positions. These fork assemblies are spaced apart in the open position and have their opposed ends in adjacent relationship in the closed position, and they are movable vertically to enable the forks to be moved between the grid elements to pick up the parts.